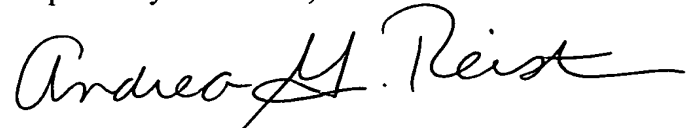


Amendment canceled previously allowed claims 28-30, and requested entry of new claims 31-49. A second Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due and a second Notice of Allowability, also dated October 16, 1997, were issued for claims 31-49 presented in the Second Preliminary Amendment filed on October 17, 1997, *after* the mailing date of the second Notice of Allowance and second Notice of Allowability.

As discussed with Examiner McKane in a telephone conference on November 7, 1997, the Second Preliminary Amendment was presented after prosecution on the merits closed, and the Second Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due and second Notice of Allowability are dated *before* the Second Preliminary Amendment was filed. The sequence in which the First Notice of Allowance and first Notice of Allowability, the Second Preliminary Amendment, and the Second Notice of Allowance and second Notice of Allowability were processed has resulted in two sets of claims having been examined and allowed, but only one set of claims is currently in the application (claims 31-49). Examiner McKane suggested that the best way to correct this situation is to add the first set of allowed claims (28-30) to the application. As such, Applicants present herein new claims 50-52 which are identical to previously allowed claims 28-30. Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be entered.

Reconsideration of this application and entry of the above Amendment are
respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrea G. Reister". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and 'R'.

Andrea G. Reister (Reg. No. 36,253)

Date: Nov. 12, 1997

HOWREY & SIMON
Box No. 34
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2402
(202) 783-0800